

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-07  
FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 PM-04 H-01 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 OIC-02 /122 W  
-----081856Z 118154 /44

R 081655Z JUN 77  
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6216  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0930

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AORG, IAEA, PARM, SF  
SUBJECT: FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA ON IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0620,

TODAY, JUNE 8, FOURIE GAVE ME SAG RESPONSE TO SIX-POWER  
DEMARCHE MADE IN APRIL ON FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA ON IAEA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS. RESPONSE (A) REAFFIRMS SA SUPPORT FOR  
NON-PROLIFERATION AND LIMITING NUCLEAR ENERGY TO PEACEFUL  
USES, (B) NOTING ITS COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT PLANT IS FAR  
FROM COMPLETION, EXPRESSES "SURPRISE" AT THE STATEMENT  
THAT "LITTLE PROGRESS" HAS BEEN MADE IN PLACING THE PLANT  
UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS, (C) STATES, IF SA IS REMOVED  
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FROM IAEA BOARD, "THE CONSEQUENCES AND IMPLICATIONS  
WOULD BE VERY FAR-REACHING," AND (D) ASSERTS THAT SA  
"IS NOW AGAIN VERY SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY"  
OF ACCESSION TO THE NPT, BUT THAT IN DOING SO, SA "MUST  
BE INFLUENCED BY THE WAY THE POWERS CONCERNED LIVE UP TO  
THEIR COMMITMENTS" UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND  
ARTICLE IV(2) OF NPT WITH RESPECT TO THE SUPPLY MATERIAL

AND EQUIPMENT FOR PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. FULL  
TEXT OF SAG RESPONSE FOLLOWS:

"1. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER, OTHER MINISTERS AND THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD HAVE ON  
FREQUENT OCCASIONS STATED AND REAFFIRMED THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE IDEAL THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY BE  
USED SOLELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

2. AS A PRACTICAL MANIFESTATION OF ITS POLICY IN SUPPORT OF  
NON-PROLIFERATION, SOUTH AFRICA HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY  
IN SETTING UP THE SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. FURTHERMORE, SOUTH AFRICA HAS VOLUN-  
TARILY UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPLY ITS URANIUM TO NON-NUCLEAR  
WEAPON STATES ONLY UNDER AGENCY OR EQUIVALENT SAFEGUARDS.  
INDEED, SOUTH AFRICA HAS, THROUGHOUT, SCRUPULOUSLY HONOURED  
ALL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE STATUTE OF THE AGENCY. THERE  
IS AMPLE EVIDENCE OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE SOUTH AFRICA HAS  
PLAYED IN THIS FIELD IN THE AGENCY FROM ITS FOUNDING DAYS.

3. SOUTH AFRICA'S OFFER TO PLACE ITS LARGE-SCALE COMMERCIAL  
ENRICHMENT PLANT WHICH IS TO BE ERECTED IN SOUTH AFRICA,  
UNILATERALLY, UNDER AGENCY SAFEGUARDS WAS TAKEN A STEP FURTHER  
IN AUGUST 1976 WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC  
ENERGY BOARD ASKED THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE AGENCY TO  
PROVIDE A PROPOSED DRAFT FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT. A DESIGN  
INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE WAS RECEIVED IN OCTOBER 1976 FOLLOWED  
BY A DRAFT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY 1977.

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SINCE THEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC  
ENERGY BOARD HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER WITH THE  
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY  
AGENCY. DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS IN SALZBURG THE PRESIDENT  
POINTED OUT THAT THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT CORPORATION OF  
SOUTH AFRICA HAD IN FACT COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE ASSUMING  
A HYPOTHETICAL CAPACITY FOR THE COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT  
PLANT. HE INDICATED HOWEVER THAT, AS ANNOUNCED  
BEFORE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY DECIDE ON  
THE SIZE OF THE PLANT IN 1978 AND POINTED OUT THAT IF THE  
SIZE DIFFERED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE ONE THAT HAD BEEN  
ASSUMED IN FILLING IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE, THE ANSWERS WOULD  
NOT BE APPLICABLE AT ALL. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS  
AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL THE SOUTH  
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A FIRM DECISION ON THE SIZE OF  
THE COMMERCIAL PLANT BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE  
AND ITS SUBMISSION TO THE AGENCY.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING AND OF THE TIME THAT IS STILL

AVAILABLE BEFORE SUCH A PLANT CAN COME INTO OPERATION,  
THE STATEMENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN "LITTLE PROGRESS" SINCE  
THE ORIGINAL OFFER WAS MADE IS NOTED WITH SURPRISE.

4. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, SOUTH AFRICA'S DESIGNATION TO THE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY  
AGENCY HAS COME UNDER THREAT. THIS THREAT IMPLIES THE  
ABRIDGEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RIGHTS AS A MEMBER OF THE  
AGENCY IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY STATUTE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0930

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5. IF THIS WERE TO BE EFFECTED THE CONSEQUENCES AND IMPLICATIONS  
WOULD BE VERY FAR-REACHING, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF  
THE FACT THAT THE AGENCY HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AN IMPORTANT  
ROLE IN THE FIELD OF SAFEGUARDS IN ITS OWN STATUTE AS  
WELL AS THE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS UNDER THE NON-  
PROLIFERATION TREATY. TO PERFORM THIS TASK ADEQUATELY  
IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE AGENCY INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN  
ITS OBJECTIVITY, IN ITS IMPARTIALITY AND IN ITS IMPERVIOUSNESS  
TO POLITICAL PREJUDICE.

6. SOUTH AFRICA HAS ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN THE PAST GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO ACCESSION TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. IT IS NOW AGAIN VERY SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF DOING SO. IN THIS PROCESS, SOUTH AFRICA MUST ALSO BEAR  
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IN MIND THE OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER PARTIES, ON A BILATERAL AS WELL AS A MULTILATERAL BASIS IN THIS FIELD. FOR INSTANCE; IN TERMS OF ARTICLE IV(2) OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, ALL PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO FACILITATE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION FOR THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. ARISING FROM BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, THERE HAVE BEEN SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS IN REGARD TO THE SUPPLY OF MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT SUBJECT TO AGENCY SAFEGUARDS. BUT IT HAS BEEN SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPERIENCE IN THE RECENT PAST THAT THESE COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY IGNORED.

INEVITABLY SOUTH AFRICA MUST, IN CONSIDERING ACCESSION TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, BE INFLUENCED BY THE WAY IN WHICH THE POWERS CONCERNED LIVE UP TO THEIR COMMITMENTS UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS UNDER ARTICLE IV(2) OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY IN GENERAL."BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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